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SOURCE Buyuk Dogu.

EXPOSE OF TURKISH MASONS

On 2 August 1952, the Istanbul daily newspaper Buyuk Dogu fanatically pro-Moslem and anti-Masonic began a series of articles entitled "Victory of Detective X I" which purported to be an expose of what it termed the irreligious, Jewish-controlled, Turkish Masonic Society. It was indicated that the series of articles would be continued.

For the most part, the series consisted of photostats and texts -- either in whole or in part -- of various allegedly secret documents of the organization which, according to the paper, clearly proved that Masonry is hostile to all religions except the Jewish religion and that the Turkish Masonic Society is directed from abroad in aims not compatible with national interests. The newspaper declared that a group of "idealist youths" armed with photographic equipment had managed to obtain entrance, in a legal manner, into the society's headquarters on the fourth floor of the Ayla Apartments in the Taksim section of Istanbul, where they had photographed every document, subsequently delivering them to Buyuk Dogu.

The newspaper also published the names, addresses, and occupations of individuals whom it identified as the members of the Turkish Masonic Society. The newspaper did not make it clear whether this list of names constituted only the Masons in Istanbul or those in all of Turkey. However, judging from the addresses given, the list refers only to those in Istanbul. Although the paper continually refers to the figure 900, the list contains only 818 names; the consecutive numbering from one to 900 contained certain gaps, for example, from 309 to 400. The newspaper mentioned that all Masonic lodges in Turkey are subordinate to that in Istanbul.

On 23 August, Buyuk Dogu published, as part of the series, a photostat of a mortgage covering a loan to the Masonic Society of 100,000 lira by two members, Prof M. Kemal Oke and Cemil Ipekci.

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On 29 August, the newspaper published a facsimile of a letter it had received from Vice-Admiral Sadik Altincan, Commander of Naval Forces, in which Altincan pointed out that the membership list had included the names of several naval officers, and requested certified copies of all documents proving such membership to be used in legal proceedings against those officers, since members of the armed forces were forbidden to join such organizations without prior permission and since investigations had indicated that the officers had failed to obtain such permission.

On 26 August, Buyuk Dogu published, in addition to the regular installment of its series, an open letter addressed to the Istanbul Public Prosecutor, demanding that the Turkish Masonic Society, including all centers, branches, and lodges, be closed immediately and its property seized and turned over to public institutions. The writer of the letter claimed that articles in the society's organ as well as the current Buyuk Dogu expose clearly proved that the existence and activities of the society violated provisions of the Law on Societies, and that the public prosecutor's office therefore had no alternative but to take legal steps against the society.

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